

Exton, PA – On the evening of June 27, the Malvern Fire Company held its annual banquet at the Inn of Chester Springs, and was joined by Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07), who addressed the crowd and expressed his appreciation for the commitment to public service demonstrated by the attendees.

“I am honored to visit and speak with the members of the Malvern Fire Company,” said Congressman Sestak. “I am always proud to stand among our community’s fire fighters as they set an example of selfless service to others. Their careers truly epitomize the ‘dignity of danger’ as they daily risk their lives to protect their neighbors.”

The fire company, which has more than 60 personnel and includes both professional and volunteer firefighters, has served the Malvern community for more than 120 years. Founded in 1888, it currently operates five pieces of emergency medical apparatus and five pieces of emergency fire apparatus. The Congressman specifically commended Paul Wilkins, the current Fire Chief, and John Rychlak, President of the company.

Since taking office in January 2007, Congressman Sestak has been an active supporter of both professional and volunteer firefighters, and is a member of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus. He emphasized the importance of properly funding first responder grant programs, which received \$3.5 billion in the Homeland Security Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2010 passed by the House last week. The legislation included \$420 million for Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) to help local fire departments with equipment and staffing needs.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.